

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00706 152201Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
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S E C R E T BELIZE 706

EXDIS

DEPT PASS GUATEMALA CITY AS DESIRABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BH, GT, US
SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN TERRORISTS UPDATE

1. THINGS MAY BE EASING SLIGHTLY OR MY FRIEND MAY BE GETTING A BIT TIRED FROM HIS NIGHTLY TRIPS TO THE CAMP. EVENING OF JULY 11, I MET WITH HIM. HE HAD COME BACK FROM GUATEMALA ABOUT 1300 HOURS THAT DAY. I CAN PRETTY MUCH SUBSTANTIATE THAT SINCE I WAS WITHIN A FEW MILES OF BORDER AT 1130 HOURS BUYING MEAT FROM LOCAL FARMER AND SAW HIS VAN EN ROUTE FROM BORDER TO BELIZE CITY.

2. IN OUR MEETING, HE PASSED ON FOLLOWING. GROUP APPEARS TO BE ADHERENTS OF CHEMITA WHO WELL KNOWN IN GUATEMALA. SOURCE SAYS THEY ARE "NOT YOUNG BUT IN THEIR MID FORTIES" FOR MOST PART. HE SAYS THEY ARE DEDICATED AND SERIOUS, STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR MILITARY REGIMES. ALSO, ANTI-U.S. BUSINESS. HE AGAIN ESTIMATED GROUP SIZE AT ABOUT 100. ANOTHER NAME SOURCE HEARD MENTIONED WAS THAT OF JOSE NASCENCIO ALES, SAID BE A SALVADORAN.

3. AN INTERESTING TWIST IN ALL THIS WAS THE APPEARANCE, IN AMANDALA, OF AN ARTICLE CALLING A CANADIAN PRIEST, FATHER
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DENNIS, "BOGUS" AND AN "UGLY DUCKLING" WITH NO CREDIBILITY WITH THE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH. I TAXED HIM WITH ALL THIS AND HE SEEMED GENUINELY ANGRY AND UPSET. HE ASKED ABOUT EVAN X. HYDE, THE EDITOR OF THE PAPER. SOURCE SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH PAPER OR ITS EDITOR WHO IS, OF COURSE, OCCASIONALLY A TAD OFF BASE IN HIS REPORTING.

4. NIGHT JULY 12, HE CAME BY BRIEFLY. SAID HE HAD SEEN HYDE, HAD THREATENED HIM WITH LEGAL ACTION AND GENERALLY CUT UP ROUGH. HYDE APOLOGIZED AND MY FRIEND SEEMS SATISFIED. HE SAID A MESSENGER HAD COME TO HIM FROM TERRORIST CAMP ASKING HIM TO COME AT ONCE. HE PLANNED TO LEAVE AFTER TALKING WITH ME. THIRTY MINUTES LATER, HIS VAN HAD DISAPPEARED FROM IN FRONT OF HOTEL WHERE HE STAYING. SOURCE PROMISED ME A WRITTEN REPORT-I TOLD HIM WRITE IN FRENCH-ABOUT GROUP. HE ALSO SAID HE SUSPECTED THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM A LIST OF DEMANDS THEY WANTED ACCEPTED PRIOR TO RELEASE OF DESERTER. I AGAIN REITERATED MY BELIEF WE DO NOT BARGAIN. SOURCE SAYS THIS MAKES IT CLEAR TO HIM AND I AGREE THAT GROUP IS FULLY AWARE HE DEALING WITH US GOVERNMENT REP. OF SOME SORT.

5. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I HAD PHONE CALL FROM SY ASKING IF I WANTED EXPECT TO COME HERE. OTHER THAN OFFERS OF VISITING EXPERTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT FROM DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSESSMENT OR OBSERVATIONS YOU MAY HAVE COME UP WITH. WAS GLAD TO GET MESSAGE ON POSSIBILITIES FOR DESERTER WHICH I WILL PASS ON IF I CAN BUT OBVIOUSLY WOULD PREFER TELL HIM HERE IN BELIZE. IN MEAN WHILE, CAN SOME QUIET QUESTIONS BE PUT OUT IN SOURCE'S HOMETOWN TO ASCERTAIN HIS BONA FIDES? NALLE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO GUATEMALA.

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